



Morgan Jones/The News

Steve Barton Musical Theatre Project rehearse a scene of Charlie Brown during Nederland Summer Rec at Nederland High School's PAC Thursday in Nederland.

'You're a Good Man Charlie Brown' shows in Nederland

By **Brandon Janes**
The News staff writer

As our photographer tried to take his picture Matthew Taylor, character coach for the Steve Barton Musical Theater Project in Nederland, called out, "It's

about them, (pointing to the students) I want it to be about them."

The reason for his modesty is that Taylor, Nederland High School class of 2005, has just returned from a national tour performing in the

famous Broadway musical *Cats*.

"When the show came into the area we all rushed down to see him," said Taylor's onetime high school theater teacher Kim Williams.

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Play

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Taylor is a local performing arts success story and one of three Nederland High School graduates commandeered by Williams and her co-director, Renee Cloes, to develop the company's summer musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," which shows Friday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Nederland High School Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for the show are \$5 and it has a run time of one and one-half hour.

"We realized that if you give them a plane ticket home students are very willing to give back to their school," said Williams, a retired NHS teacher.

Taylor starred as Harold

Hill in last year's production of "The Music Man." Later that year he traveled to New York to audition on Broadway where he got his break.

Taylor studied at the Westminster Choir College and taught for a year as a choir teacher in the Texas Rio Grande valley.

In addition to Taylor's professional support on the crew, the musical benefits from NHS graduates Richard Fields, a professional theatre technician, and Lindsey Landry-Grande, a professional dance choreographer.

The story, written by Clark Gesner in 1967, is a character-driven script, said Williams, a compila-

tion of scenes from the comic ("Peanuts" created by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz) and the (Emmy Nominated television) cartoon.

The cast is made up entirely of NISD students and one student from the University of Oklahoma. According to Williams, they developed the musical from top to bottom in 14 days.

This is the second production by the company, which only produces theatre during the summer. Williams hopes they will one day be able to produce a full stock, which means four musicals in a summer season.

bjanes@panews.com